

NEWS



Special to The Boot  
After dropping out of high school at 16, Walter Anderson joined the Marine Corps. While serving, he worked his way through a GED before he was sent to fight in Vietnam in early 1965. Anderson went on to write five books as well as become the chief executive officer of Parade magazine.

# Head of Parade credits successes to time in Corps

**SGT. JOHN NEAL**  
*1st MCD*

**NEW YORK** - Long before he became the head of America’s most read magazine, Walter Anderson was a Marine sergeant in Vietnam. Anderson grew up in a tenement on the south side of Mount Vernon, N.Y., a suburb of The Bronx. His father was a violent alcoholic who routinely beat his youngest of three children, often just for reading books. Books gave Anderson an escape from the violence and poverty of home, but it wasn’t until later he could finally leave. Urged on by his mother and with the help of the mother of his best friend, Anderson attended private school but never felt he fit in. For high school, he returned to public school but only on occasion. He cut classes during the day and worked in the afternoons to raise what money he could. By the time he was a junior in school and 16 years old, Anderson dropped out of high school and joined the Marines. After boot camp and infantry school, Anderson went to Camp Lejeune, N.C. It was here he

realized he wasn’t going to stay in the Marines forever and needed to do something to improve himself. With help from his first sergeant, Anderson earned his GED and got a spot at the electronics school. Again, Anderson felt out of place. All the students at the school were bona fide high school graduates and some had college experience. Yet Anderson worked hard and graduated seventh out of a class of 24. He also received a promotion to lance corporal, thanks to the support of the school’s staff. It was a moment, he said, he is most proud of. “It was the first time anyone said to me, ‘we believe in you.’” Anderson shipped to Vietnam in early 1965 and spent most his time in East Da Nang. In October, the Viet Cong coordinated the first major attack on the Marines at Da Nang. He returned to the United States in December of that year a battle-hardened veteran. A few months later he attended his father’s funeral. It was after the funeral he learned from his

mother the man who had beaten him his whole life was not his father. It was a secret she had kept and asked him to keep it, too, for as long as his brother and sister were alive. Anderson kept the secret close. He got out of the Marine Corps and went to Westchester Community College and Mercy College. He went on to write for various newspapers, the Associated Press and, at age 35, was named editor of Parade Magazine. He worked at Parade for 20 years when he was named the chief executive officer of Parade, which is read by 37 million Americans every Sunday. He has also written five books. His most recent, “Meant to Be” details his life’s story and reveals the secret he and his mother kept for so long. Anderson has never forgotten where he came from, and what he learned while in the Marines. “I learned to have confidence in others and myself,” he said. “I learned to do the right thing and do things for others. I learned to live for something larger than myself.” The Marine Corps turned him from a kid from a tough neighborhood to a man, and he still feels the fraternal bonds. “I grew up in the Marine Corps. I never left the Marine Corps.”

# TA changes for first time users

**LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER**  
*STAFF WRITER*

First time Tuition Assistance users will now encounter changes in the policies for application and acceptance into the program. The changes took place in October but have not affected first time TA users’ class enrollment until now. The program’s variations were put into place to ensure that service members are academically ready for the course, said Jan Wilson, education office test examiner. “We will now be screening the General Test portion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery for all Marines seeking TA for the first time,” said Wilson. “The GT score is a composite score from the arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension and mechanical comprehension test sections on the ASVAB. [The education office] views this screening as a positive step for the Marine Corps.” The screening process follows the standards listed by the Marine Corps in MARADMIN 461/03. “Marines with a GT of 99 and below must complete the Test of

Adult Basic Education with scores of 10.2 and higher to receive TA,” according to MARADMIN 461/03. “If the test score is not satisfactory, Marines must complete the Military Academics Skills Program prior to receiving TA.” MASP is one of the steps first time TA users must go through to get into the program. “This phase in the educational process can be considered a test to see if the individual really wishes to pursue an education,” said Wilson. “So we hope to see that the individuals will succeed in the MASP class.” The education office hopes that success with MASP will lead to success in the classroom. “We had a lot of individuals that were canceling two to three weeks into the class, which leaves the service member in a position to personally pay back [the tuition],” said Wilson. “The number of class cancellations is something that has always been a factor, but the numbers have been increasing over the last couple of years.” Canceling classes is one reason for the change to TA policy, and service members failing classes is another. “Unfortunately, Parris Island has a high number of Marines

who sign up for classes and don’t succeed in passing the classes,” said Wilson. “Some sign up for too many classes or they have workplace changes which in turn affect the outcome.” Once through the testing and screening process the military wants to make sure that service members are informed about TA. “First time students must complete a ‘TA Orientation’ class (College 101) prior to using TA,” according to MARADMIN 461/03. “Marines on major installations may access the course at local education offices.” Despite its benefits some people feel the course is more of a burden than something that helps them out, said Sgt. James R. Hamilton III, education specialist. “People should look into ‘College 101’ before they come in, if they don’t it sometimes creates problems and delays for the Marine,” said Hamilton. “A lot of people think it is a waste of time, but it helps them understand the procedures associated with tuition assistance.” For more information visit your local education office or call Jan Wilson at 335-2152.

# JCAHO, Navy Medical IG set to survey NHB operations

Patients interested in providing details about the quality of care or safety of the hospital are asked to contact the JCAHO directly.

**PATRICIA BINNS**  
*NHB PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER*

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and the Navy Medical Inspector General will be conducting a joint survey of Naval Hospital Beaufort Feb. 4 - 12. The purpose of the survey will be to evaluate the organization’s compliance with nationally established Joint Commission and United

States Navy standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the conditions under which, accreditation should be awarded the organization. Joint Commission standards deal with organizational quality of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission’s field representatives. Information presented at the interview will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process. Requests for a public information interview with JCAHO must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey

begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview. Such requests should be addressed to: Division of Accreditation Operations, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., 60181. The Joint Commission will acknowledge such requests in writing or by telephone and will inform the organization of the request for any interview. The organization will, in turn, notify the interviewee of the date, time, and place of the meeting. Concerns may also be brought to the attention of the Medical Inspector General by calling 1-800-637-6175.

Discover the process of accreditation on the Web at [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org) or visit the Navy’s Inspector General at [www.ig.navy.mil](http://www.ig.navy.mil).

**COW,**  
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purchased at their local commissary. Questions range from “should I return the ground beef I bought last week?” to “has my commissary received meat from the infected cow?”

The answer to both questions is “no” said Wolken, an Army veterinarian. “The brain, spinal cord, and lower intestine - where the protein or ‘prion’ that is believed to cause BSE is found - is not generally used in food consumed by Americans. Those parts were removed from the infected cow before any of it could enter the meat supply.”

USDA investigators have determined that the recalled meat went to a few commercial markets in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Guam as well as Washington state, Oregon, California and Nevada. “No commissaries received any of those shipments,” Wolken emphasized. “But I can certainly understand customers having concerns and questions. We’re all affected by this - we’re all concerned.”

Concerns, which are certainly justified. “Mad cow” is a fatal disease that destroys the brains of the infected animal. It is caused in cattle by misshapen proteins called prions that are possibly spread from animal to animal through contaminated feed. A rare form of the disease in humans known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease has been linked to the consumption of contaminated beef products. The approximately 140 deaths linked to “mad cow” since the mid-90s have mainly been in Britain.

For the latest developments on the current situation as well as for links to the USDA and other information on recalls and food safety, commissary customers should check the food safety link at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).